

Hail Americans' Viet Nam War Protest

TEN months have elapsed since Nixon entered the White House. It is to be recalled that during his presidential electioneering, he did not mince his words when criticizing Johnson's policy on Viet Nam as having "failed militarily, politically, diplomatically and with relation to our own people" (Republican platform, August 1968). Nixon promised then to end in 6 months this war which he later termed as "the costliest" and "the most difficult" in all US history.

However since his inauguration, peace prospects on Viet Nam, far from brightening, have been dimming out in American eyes. The toll of GI casualties has surpassed that of any other war hitherto waged by the United States, except World War II. US congressional records on June 30, 1969 revealed that "the cost of the Viet Nam conflict, when assuming a major de-escalation at the end of this year and a total withdrawal next year will be about 350 billion dollars: the estimate does not include inflationary cost owing to the war, the loss of service and coming by the 35,000 killed in the war to date, the cost of resettlement abroad, the depletion of our natural resources, the postponement of our critical domestic programs, the cost of the overeducation and education of our youth, the cost of the suspended cultural program of our nation — and nothing of the death and destruction to the South Viet Nam civilians in the war zone itself."

NIXON promised he would bring in, as far as Viet Nam was concerned, a new policy, a new leadership and a new team.

What has occurred in fact? As an American newspaper has commented, Nixon's ambassador in Saigon is still Johnson's, and his negotiator in Paris is none other than a main Viet Nam policy-maker under Johnson.

The fundamental policy followed by Nixon has not changed an iota compared with Johnson; its name remains "Neo-colonialism." The means used to achieve this aim are also the same: it is "maximum military pressure" which the Pentagon has recently changed into "active protection", but the change is only in appearance and not in substance, as a UP commentator aptly remarked on Sept. 13, 1969. It is also the policy of "Vietnamization" the war, — again a new name given to the old "de-Americanization" advocated by the Johnson administration. Lastly that is the policy of clinging to the Saigon puppet regime, in which the Thieu-Ky-Khiem troika, more rabidly warlike and blood-thirsty (let's mention the Thu Duc mass murder as the latest illustration of their wickedness), replaced the Thieu-Ky-Huong trio.

At the Paris Conference, old issues have been played again and again by the American delegation in the course of the last 37 sessions; they are the "mutual troop withdrawal" aimed at dodging the issue of the total and unconditional pull-out of US and satellite troops; the US refusal to take into serious consideration the South Viet Nam PRC suggestion on the formation of a provisional coalition government to be entrusted with the task of organizing free and democratic general elections.

To open a safety valve and ease the pressure from public opinion, Nixon resorted to pally subterfuges. He ordered piecemeal pull-out of American troops: 50,000 in 6 months (at such a ratio, the United States would remain bogged down in the Viet Nam quagmire for another 8 or 9 years, according to Senator F. Church's calculations). Another manoeuvre of the American President to distract US public opinion has been a smear campaign against North Viet Nam charged with alleged ill-treatment of captured US pilots, but this apparently holds no water. Again Nixon staged a new comedy on the imaginary "secret contacts" between the DRVN and the USA in a place other than Paris, and US Americans have been requested to suspend criticism against the Administration in order not to harm those "contacts." At the same time rumours were spread to the effect that military and

(Continued page 2)



President HO CHI MINH in the first days of the Resistance against French colonialist aggression (1947)

Premier Pham Van Dong's Message To American People

October 14, 1969

Dear American friends,

US progressives have so far been opposing the war of aggression in Viet Nam. This fall, the broad masses of the American people, encouraged and supported by many peace- and justice-loving American personalities, have again planned to launch a widespread and powerful drive in the whole country for the ending of the war of aggression in Viet Nam, and immediate repatriation of all US troops, by the Nixon Administration.

Your campaign eloquently reflects the legitimate and pressing demand of your people — to save the honour of the United States and to avoid for their boys a useless death in Viet Nam. This is also a very relevant and timely answer to the US authorities who stubbornly persist in intensifying and prolonging the war of aggression in Viet Nam, in defiance of the protests of American and world public opinion.

The Vietnamese people and the world's peoples fully approve and warmly hail your just action.

The Vietnamese people insist that the US Government completely and unconditionally pull out of Viet Nam all US troops and those of foreign countries belonging to its camp, and let the Vietnamese people decide themselves their own destiny.

The Vietnamese people deeply cherish peace, but a peace in independence and freedom. So long as the US Government persists in its aggression in Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people will tenaciously fight on to defend their fundamental national rights. The patriotic fight of our people is also a fight for peace and justice, the very objectives you are pursuing.

We are firmly confident that with the solidarity and courage of our two peoples, with the sympathy and support of the peace-loving peoples in the world, the struggle of the Vietnamese people and of the progressive people in the United States against US aggression will end in total victory.

I wish your "Fall Offensive" a brilliant success.

Cordial greetings,
PHAM VAN DONG
Prime Minister
of the Democratic Republic of
Viet Nam

(Oct. 16, 1969)

Mr Xuan Thuy: "Mr Nixon Dares Not Make Public the Time-Table for US Troop Withdrawal Because He Wants To Prolong the War."

At the 38th session of the Paris Conference, Minister of State Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN delegation, gave indications of the US scheme to prolong the Viet Nam war.

Since he came to office, the DRVN chief negotiator continued, President Nixon has increasingly been increasing military actions in South Viet Nam in an attempt to create a "position of strength" from a "maximum military pressure."

The DRVN envoy exposed the Nixon administration's piecemeal troop withdrawal as a trick to appease American public opinion. He pointed out that the "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization" of the war advocated by Nixon did not aim at ending the Viet Nam war but at continuing it under another form, which matches US-backed and commanded puppet troops against the South Vietnamese people.

On Nixon's recent refusal to make public the time-table for the total US troop withdrawal from South Viet Nam under the pretext that this would cause prolongation of the war, Mr Xuan Thuy commented: "President Nixon dare not make public the time-table for US troop pull-out not because its publication would prolong the war but because he precisely wants to prolong it."

Concerning the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, the Vietnamese representative said that so long as the US refuses to rapidly pull out all troops of the US and other foreign countries of the US camp from South Viet Nam without any condition, and tries to maintain the militarist, warlike and rotten Thieu-Ky-Phiem administration, President Nixon's protestation of US "respect" for the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination remains lip-service.

Mr Xuan Thuy emphasized: "If the Nixon administration really respects the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, then it has no reason to reject the proposal of the

NFL and the KSVN PIG for a provisional South Viet Nam coalition government to use to general elections. There is nothing more fair and reasonable and nothing better than the above suggestion to guarantee real freedom and democracy for the general elections in South Viet Nam."

He then referred to the lively campaign in the US on October 13 involving tens of millions of people who unanimously urged that Nixon end the Viet Nam war, withdrawal immediately all US troops from South Viet Nam. He also recalled the resolution adopted by the Permanent Committee of the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam in support of the American people's struggle, and the actions of the masses in many countries in the world to back the American people's moratorium.

Making clear the responsibility of the Nixon administration for prolonging the aggressive war in Viet Nam and the US military occupation of South Viet Nam, and for the Paris Conference's deadlock, Mr Xuan Thuy said:

The Liars Let Out Their Cloven Hooves

MORE ON THE MASSACRE OF WOMEN DETAINED IN THU DUC CAMP

After being condemned for detaining and torturing 1,400 women prisoners in Thu Duc concentration camp (South Viet Nam) and massacring a number of them, the American aggressors gave orders to their Saigon valets to issue a communique giving a blatant denial of this crime. The communiqué affirmed:

1. There is no detention house for women, but a "corrective camp";

2. In South Viet Nam only our women are under detention for prostitution.

But a document published on June 10, 1969 by a US mission of investigation on the lack of freedom in South Viet Nam and sent to the American Congress testified that the US and puppet authorities had never been wrongly exposed.

This mission which included

Nam, and for the Paris Conference's deadlock, Mr Xuan Thuy said:

"To break the Paris Conference's present stalemate and to reach agreement, the Nixon administration should:

— Promptly withdraw from South Viet Nam all troops of the US and foreign countries of the US camp without laying down any condition, not by dribble, but totally, not drag on the troop withdrawal for many years but pull them out completely within a few months, not "Vietnamize" the war but bring it to a final end.

— Agree to the setting up of a provisional coalition government, put it in charge of organizing free democratic general elections in South Viet Nam and not the kind of "elections" advocated by the US and Nguyen Van Thieu and aimed at realizing the US neo-colonialist scheme."

each personality as Bishop J. Armstrong and Mrs. Bennett, reported that:

— The house of detention of women at Thu Duc was run by Minh (more precisely Duong Ngoc Minh, according to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the South Viet Nam Republic).

Up to June 1969, 1,250 people were detained, including 843 "communists", a note given by the US-puppet authorities to the Saigon stand for peace and neutrality and against the Saigon puppet administration.

— The detention cells and wards were filled to capacity, which was all the more unbearable to pregnant women and nursing mothers. Fifty women, some of them with their babies, huddle in a room 12 metres long by 9 metres wide. According to a statement made by Minh to

Hail Americans'...

(Continued from page 1)

diplomatic developments in the next 60 or 90 days would considerably improve peace prospects in Viet Nam. Fortunately enough, the DRVN just gave a denial of these "secret contacts" tales and pricked all the bubbles manufactured in the White House laboratories!

In the above circumstances there is no wonder that large sections of the US press have been utterly angered since they have decided not to be victims of their President's adventurous policy.

What is worth noticing is the fact that no sooner had the "period of grace" ended than opposition to the war took on proportions which surpassed even those of Johnson time. It now includes the youths, students, black people, intellectuals, religious personalities, physicians, and even a growing number of politicians, congressmen and state governors. At the Capitol, Senator Goodell demanded that all US troops be withdrawn before the end of 1970, while Senator Fulbright decided to hold his "hearings" on Viet Nam at the Senate Committee for Foreign Affairs. In a mass movement of an unusual intensity, the "New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam", backed by hundreds of organizations, initiated mass moves of protest beginning August 15 on the simple territory of the United States. Protests, vigils, peace marches, sit-ins, rallies and demonstrations, recalls of GI's names lost in Viet Nam... everywhere voice the vigorous pressing of the American people to their Washington rulers, for an immediate end to the Viet Nam war of aggression.

Nixon was cynical enough to say that he would not be influenced by mass movements. But didn't Johnson and Bush declare the same thing and in spite of this they did not escape, under the impact of setbacks sustained in Viet Nam, from coming finally to the people's will, de-escalating the war in South Viet Nam and agreeing to the convening of a quadripartite Conference with NFL participation?

The Vietnamese people are perfectly aware that the main factor which can bring the White House and Pentagon decisions back to their sense is their own determination to withstand their efforts in this struggle against the US imperialists' aggression, but they know that special importance should be attached to conserving their action with the American people's fight to end the Viet Nam war.

On the occasion of the new wave of protest in the United States, we think it fit to quote the following from the 1969 New Year message addressed by our Great President Ho Chi Minh to American friends:

"I warmly hail the gallant struggle of our American friends whatever the colour of their skin, for now and to the aggressive war in Viet Nam. It is my conviction that it is a struggle which simultaneously helps our people's resistance fight, serves the interests and honour of the American people and safeguards the lives of their boys."

the American mission there in his jail so children up to 12 and 42 girls between 13 and 17. Sanitation was very poor. Most of the women had never been tried

ARE THERE GIs IN LAOS?

PRESIDENT Nixon said on September 26, 1969 that no American combat troops operated in Laos. The next day Prince Souvanna Phouma followed suit.

These statements were contradicted on September 30, 1969 by the New York Times correspondent in Laos. According to him:

— The US aid to Laos totals 250 million dollars per year, but only 60 million dollars granted for technical aid is made public, the remaining 190 million in military expenditures is kept secret.

— In the strict sense of "foreign military personnel"

after many months of detention. The mission admitted that tortures and cruelties had been commonly used during detention and in questioning.

stipulated in the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, the US has 1,000 citizens involved in Laos. This does not include air flights and support units engaged in daily bombing missions in Laos.

— Over one hundred US infantrymen and airmen on duty at US Embassies in Laos take charge of two most important tasks: military operation planning and logistic supplies to the Laotian army. American majors and captains are present on the battlefield, and work operational plans for the Laotian army and also go to the front with a large logistic support unit to solve logistic problems and give it air cover.

...I had been somewhat stunned when heard that a South Vietnamese woman, a dear elder friend of mine, who had come to the North for a visit early this year, said to Uncle Ho: "We in the South, adding by your recommendation, fear no sacrifices nor hardships, nor even the eventuality of having to fight the US aggressors for a hundred years. The one thing we fear is that you Uncle will be "a hundred years old..." (meaning dead—Ed.).

I was moved by my friend's sincerity, moved by her candor. But how angry I felt with her! Why on earth did she say the very thing nobody wanted or wanted to say at all! Since Uncle's seventieth birthday virtually every Vietnamese had been worrying, Uncle had already surpassed the age which "we" had ever reached in all times! We all felt anxious, but dared not even tell it to ourselves, not to our dearest ones. Yet, my friend bluntly told it to Uncle! Something flashed in my mind very quickly across the forehead, the eyes, the lips and the heavy beard of Uncle. He turned aside and asked Comrade Pham Van Dong: "How many years on I past seventy this year, younger brother...?"

The weather turned on us. The degree of our humility rose. Our foreheads used to call this phenomenon a "turn of Heaven". And when "Heaven turned", old folks "turned ill". On the night of September 1 as Uncle was absent from the National Day commemorative

"You are seventy nine this year, Uncle."

"Then, there are 21 more years left before I reach the age of 100. I called on you, younger sisters and brothers, to fight the US aggressors 5, 10, or 20 years, but did I ever say 21 years? If we defeat the US aggressors in twenty years, then I shall have one year left to go to the South and visit our dear sisters and brothers, and my nephews and nieces down there..."

I was relieved by Uncle's answer. But I could not hold back my tears. I was no longer angry with my friend. Still, the anxiety every day of us wanted to forget, kept gnawing at us. So till September 2 this year... Our Meteorological Service made an announcement as trivially worded as usual: "Hurricane Number 3 is gathering between 2 degree longitude and 5 degree latitude."

The weather turned on us. The degree of our humility rose. Our foreheads used to call this phenomenon a "turn of Heaven". And when "Heaven turned", old folks "turned ill". On the night of September 1 as Uncle was absent from the National Day commemorative

meeting, Hanoi citizens felt the weather to be still more oppressively hot. No official announcement about Uncle's condition had come out as yet, but how many people already felt that Uncle was very unwell.

How indeed could we Vietnamese fail to feel something was happening to a man whose life was woven into our own lives, into the destiny of the nation? A man whom an entire nation has as its own will recognized as its supreme leader, its most venerated and beloved teacher, Father, and Uncle? There is part of the heart and the brain of Uncle in each patch of our land, each household, each vegetable leaf, each bowl of our daily rice, as well as in each of our children going to school, each drug we take when ill, each Vietnamese plane flying in the sky, each Vietnamese warship cruising on the sea, each big Vietnamese gun spitting fire on the enemy. Uncle is in our people and our Party like blood to flesh. When the blood sheds, the flesh aches.

Groups of people gathered in public services in the streets. The latest news was circulated as well as the old news. Uncle's loving anecdote in his sick bed, Uncle asked: "How's the fighting going on down South these days?"

"Uncle, our brothers down there are fighting quite well, someone rolled out the flag..."

"Will there be fireworks to rejoice the people during this year's National Day celebration?" Uncle asked again.

How great indeed! Not long before breathing his last, Uncle still thought of the South, of the happiness and joy of the people in the North, of the people there who, of love and affection for him, by such a story?

Yet... the morning of September 4 what a cruel morning indeed! When Voice of Viet Nam Radio blared out the "special communiqué" "Life in the capital city, in the provinces of North Viet Nam and many places in the South, stopped today for a minute, nay, for several minutes, the sky and the earth seemed to dim out. Houses, trees, flowers and leaves, jungles and mountains, rivers and canals, city and town streets, vehicles, factories, paddy fields... all seemed to turn round and round, to stop... tarry! The firmament seemed to break asunder. The earth seemed to collapse. The air seemed hot as in an oven. And at the same time as cold as ice. And then, it rained heavily."

Our people deeply regret not having completed earlier the liberation of the South in order to welcome Uncle there!

Every one of us felt deep remorse. And every one was on his mettle to bring victory nearer.

Although nobody had told one another, workers came to their factories earlier, peasants tended the fields more carefully. Research workers sat lost in thought in laboratories.

The mutual love and affection that had always bound the entire nation became more profound: one heart stopped beating, millions and millions of other hearts throbbed faster: Uncle Ho will live for ever...

DAY and night, streams of people silently filed into the Ho Chi Minh Conference Hall, to bid farewell to Uncle. But, where did Uncle go? Where would he get to? I spent several sleepless nights without being able to find a relevant answer likely to fit in with the reality, and with our feelings.

Did Uncle leave this world?

No! He did not want to leave this world at all! Neither does this world want to leave it! The life of ours has been changed yearly and monthly with each passing year and each passing month by the services rendered by Uncle and by our nation. The Japanese-French yaks crumbled; people's power was established. The Dien Bien Phu banner fluttered high in the sky. In the North, the life of slaves, of hewers of wood and drawers of water, was a thing of the past. Factories mushroomed. More and more "five-ton" paddy fields producing five tons of paddy per year on every hectare—Eds. are recorded. Formerly illiterate people now can read and write fluently. No more rags, and rice bowls are full. The out-of-the-way places, flower beds to be formerly poor people's gardens, become familiar with people from living on others' sweat. In face of the enemy's bombs and shells, people share education, blood, and houses with one another. South Viet Nam is resisting successfully the most cruel enemy of our time. It is continually attacking and rising up, winning more successes and becoming stronger in the course of the fighting. It is defeating the most brutal gangster of our time. The South is proving to be worthy of the title bestowed on it by Uncle Thieu Dong To Quoc (Iron Citadel of the Fatherland). Uncle even expressed his desire to tour all of South Viet Nam...

Is Uncle gone to the sleep that knows not breaking? No, he is well up and about. Uncle's thoughts are ubiquitous. Everyone bears them in mind: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." "Unity, unity, great unity. Success, success, great success." "Be loyal to the Fatherland, devoted to the people..." "We would rather sacrifice any sacrifice than lose independence and be slaves."

Uncle is standing up, higher and nobler than ever. And more than ever before the number of people standing up after him is bigger, and they are more resolute than ever before.

Have we "lost" Uncle? No. Why do we "lose" him? Uncle and our people, our Party, our fight for na-

tional liberation, and one socialist revolution, are our cause. We can say that we have lost Uncle, since our people have grown used to his presence. We are steady, and our revolution is advancing. Our people, and the world's peoples will can find him and invest him in their revolutionary deeds, in their hatred for imperialism, in their love for the young and the old, for men and women. Everybody still feels him in moments of difficulty and hardship, in hours of glory.

Has Uncle gone up to "Paradise," to "Fairland," to "Heaven"?

No. To him, there is no such paradise as that on this earth of ours, where people are struggling, where flowers of victory are blossoming. Can there be greater happiness than that of dedicating one's life to the cause of a life of plenty for the people? Can there be any life more beautiful than the mountains and rivers, the land of our Viet Nam, with its majestic mountains and hills, large seas and long rivers, full of flowers and fruits all the year round, under each stone, each bridge span, each road and each paddy field is soaked with the sweat and the blood of our forebears who all along 4,000 years hacked mountains and blasted rocks to build and defend our homeland? Why should we go to far away places to look for an immaterial fairyland?

Why then should we say that Uncle has departed from us for ever?

Not until Comrade Le Duang had read out Uncle's testament did we have the answer.

Uncle said that he would "go and join Kien Mar, V.I. Lenin and other great revolutionaries."

Uncle said so to comfort us. To say that we won't be grieved, but we've understood, Uncle departed from us and he goes into immortality. To our 31 million fellow-countrymen, Ho Chi Minh is Truth.

No sooner had the present settled than all the past seemed to be alarming. The future opened like a long-buried road, lying as far as the eye could see.

When hundreds of thousands of us converged on Ho Chi Minh Square on September 9, 1969, we saw a hero who had covered our mountains and our rivers with an endless glory, none of us wanted to leave the square, although the memorial ceremony was over. Everybody seemed waiting for the song "Ket Doan", waiting for an affectionate smile, for a warm word...

"Fellow-countrymen, are you resolved to win?" For their part, the children waited to run up and kiss Uncle in their arms. It seemed as though Uncle was saying to us after he had said, "do you hear me clearly?"

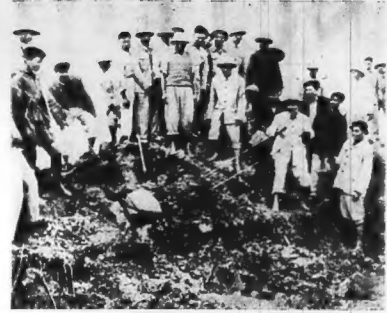
Twenty-four years have already gone by, still, his words were as a reverberation through the historic square.

(Continued page 1)

CURUCHE

President Ho Chi Minh planting a sapling in Hanoi's Thang Nhat (Reunification) Park

President
HO CHI MINH
having a try at
irrigating a ricefield
during an anti-drought
drive at Quang To
tui Thang village,
Thanh Tri district,
Hanoi (Dec. 1, 1955).



OUR UNCLE HO

(Continued from page 3)

Nearly 30 years have gone by, still our people have not forgotten the words of Nguyen Ai Quoc, who called on us to rise up under the Viet Minh banner.

Nearly 30 years have gone by, still we can picture him, sitting on a football ground in Hong Kong, gathering together the genuine revolutionary groupings, welding them into an invincible Party of the working class and toiling masses of the Indochinese people.

Nearly 30 years have gone by, still nobody has forgotten the first internationalist fighter of Viet Nam, who took part in the founding of the French Communist Party, who declared to follow the path of Lenin, wrote newspaper articles, calling on our people to rise up, calling on the oppressed people to stand up to liberate themselves. That heroic soul, who lived with black troops in Africa, with workers in the United States and Britain, who worked in international communist organizations.

Nearly 30 years have gone by, still we seem to see that patriotic young man, with empty hands and devoted love for the Fatherland, leave his country and his family to go in search of a path to national salvation, to liberate the toiling masses and the oppressed peoples.

Since the birth of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, all through a quarter of a century, every step, every word, every heart beat, every breath and every smile of Uncle had mingled with those of our combatants and countrymen throughout the country at every stage of the struggle to defend the independence and freedom already gained.

South Viet Nam, then all of Viet Nam, rose up to wage a war of resistance. The (North Viet Nam - EAP) Border campaign. Then the Dien Bien Phu victory. In the liberated North, land belongs to the tillers, and factories are under the ownership of the working class. Laboratories belong to the intellectuals, literature and art for and by the people. When the US law grabbers stepped into the shoes of the French aggress-

ors in the South, Uncle, again called on us to resume the fighting. Simultaneous uprisings in the South. Political struggle, armed struggle. The US "special war" went bankrupt. The US war of destruction in the North was smashed. General attacks and uprisings throughout South Viet Nam.

The sacred spirit of our land and the marvelous fight of our people, of our Party have moulded a leader of genius who, in turn, guided us together with us advanced to a high peak of the revolution. Uncle's revolutionary cause is our cause. Our revolutionary cause is Uncle's cause. Today, that cause is on its way to more success. Uncle has gone to join Karl Marx, Lenin, the great Sixteen-Year (Quoc Tan) Party, Nguyen Hieu, and Uncle firmly believed that the revolutionary cause of the toiling masses will be carried on to total victory.

It seems that Uncle is smiling to us. Optimism and confidence.

THINK he lies, in his glass-topped coffin. He leaves to us his broad forehead, his golden heart, and a pair of rubber tyre sandals.

Under his broad forehead was a great brain. That brain thought a great deal about state affairs, about the people's life, about the revolutionary movement in the five continents, about the liberty and love of those sharing the same ideal. That brain also cared for the kitchen of the army units, the bathing houses of the peasants, the sanatoriums of the old people, the household chores of women, kindergartens, the revolutionary virtues and style of work of the cadres.

That brain cared for the temple dedicated to the Hung Kings who founded the country thousands of years ago and the dining halls, boarding houses and schools for the present and future generations. That brain also cared for friendship among the nations and solidarity among revolutionaries all over the world.

Uncle's heart was filled with love for his countrymen and comrades, for the old and the

young, for men and women, in both zones South and North of our country, and also for our citizens abroad, for all honest people on earth. Uncle loved the people, and the people loved Uncle. He was a man who loved people, and people loved him. He was a man who loved people, and people loved him.

Uncle's love and affection equally watered the vegetable leaves, the inches of land around every house, the blossoms, the trees and the shrubbery, the thylum canino from South Viet Nam, and even the bushy tree from India. His was a heart that loved friends and hated foes, and was always true to itself. That heart reminds us to love and unite with one another.

Uncle's pair of rubber tyre sandals have followed him here, to this day. For the first time in world history, the President of a country wore the sandals of a peasant. Uncle Ho changed the name of a country "Annam", a colony, into the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. World literature also calls that pair of sandals "Ho Chi Minh sandals".

There lie the sandals, as simple as Uncle's style of life, as battle-hardened as Uncle's revolutionary career, as popular as Uncle's simple manners. Uncle travelled in these sandals on the jungle tracks of Pac Bo, and Dien Bien. Uncle's nephews and nieces have also been using such sandals to climb up the Truong Son and go down the Mekong river delta. Ho Chi Minh sandals on the Ho Chi Minh road.

In the glass coffin, the life of our Uncle Ho appears in all its purity, its flawless, its shining, its grateful for the revolution, flawless toward the Fatherland, toward the people, toward the Party; flawless toward his countrymen and his comrades; flawless with his patriotism and his sense of duty; flawless with his self-support and self-reliance; flawless in his daring to fight and win; of a people who dare to fight, who love fighting and who are being guided by several praiseworthy comrades. For over half a

Uncle Ho's Uniform

MADE during the first national war of resistance, it was worn by Uncle Ho throughout it. It bore its name - "resistance garments" which differentiates it from the khaki costume which has now gone down in history as the one worn by Uncle on the day of the Declaration of Independence in 1945.

Uncle Ho had also a green uniform, a change of flannel trousers still preserved for half a century, a hat and a field jacket, the latter being the gift of a victorious army unit. In the frontier battle, he gave it to a wounded soldier who was shivering with cold.

The jacket of the "resistance garments" had in its upper part a big patch which had its own history. It was during the Frontier campaign. Uncle Ho travelled with a messenger, a bag of rice around his waist, green camouflage on his helmet and a towel on his shoulder. He went with army carriers loaded with supplies to the front. One day, walking by an old man, he congratulated him: "How ripping you are! What an example you set for your people. With your help, the front." "Not so ripping as you are, I'm afraid," the old man replied. "You are older than I, yet you are still in the army!"

The jacket had also a wear and tear mark: on one sleeve, it was during an anti-drought campaign after Geneva. Uncle Ho was visiting a ricefield, escorted by a local cadre. Peasants were irrigating their lands near the road. He took a scoop and told the man to do the same. It was a job needing a neat turn of hand and the incident earned official did not know how to handle the implement he was using. Uncle Ho said, laughing, "Let him try. He's not from the country. He ought to know how farmers work." And he went on irrigating the ricefield, managing the thing decently.

A mud smear got on the sleeve of his jacket. After a great deal of shaking, the spot got throbbled.

Newspapers all over the world fronted the portrait of President Ho Chi Minh. He had a banner beautilied with Viet Nam. The more one loves Viet Nam, the more one eschews luxuries. Uncle Ho was a man who loved Viet Nam, the more one believes in Ho Chi Minh.

What a pride for our leader to have brought more glory to our mountains and rivers, our land, our people and our Party!

Our Uncle Ho, who remained modest all his life, vowed to be a humble disciple of Lenin and a servant of the people. But when his present clock, history flung its door wide open to welcome him, the future radiates his aureole.

We have read the finest tributes paid to Uncle Ho, sent in from all over the world. "A genius of our time," "A legend hero," "A source of hope in a world in turmoil," "A shining symbol of the twentieth century." These words, we believe, come from the bottom of the heart. And the grateful for these heartfelt homages which are an encouragement for our people and our Party to persevere in the path charted by our beloved leader.

In the present time, two big streams are flowing side by side: socialist revolution and national liberation revolution. Uncle Ho's sandals, both these streams, Viet Nam has become the symbol of a staunch and unflinching fire power for strike power, hence indifferent combat effectiveness. Mobile troops are scarce because they are bottled up in encampments and encloses while they are forced onto the defensive. Furthermore, American troops must stay in support puppet troops in relief operations, in various encampments

New US Frustrations in South Viet Nam

Attempt to Launch Offensive

OUR OFFENSIVE BRING ABOUT US-PUPPET FIRST MAJOR SETBACK, NAMELY, THE IMPOSSIBILITY TO MAKE THEIR STRATEGY, TACTICS AND DEFENCE MEASURES EFFECTIVE

THEIR battle army is going from bad to worse and the contradictions in the disposition of their forces are ever more aggravated. Moreover, their forces have been spread thin to cope with the situation on all battlefields, from the jungled mountains to the delta plain, the communication pipes and in the cities. Their combat maneuver force are not large. The US First Air Cavalry Division - the enemy's mobile main maneuver in the 3rd Tactical Zone - has been pinned down in enclosures scattered over an area 120 km by 60 km covering the 3 provinces of Phuoc Long, Binh Long and Tay Ninh. In their increasingly serious passivity, US puppet encampments and US puppet troops are under constant attacks. In such circumstances, on-the-spot reaction is the main tactic they generally adopt; reinforcements deployed by dribbles often dig in to ward their ground.

SECOND MAJOR SETBACK: ALL US-PUPPET STRATEGIC FORCES ARE TROUNCED AND CONTINUE TO WEAKEN WHILE THEIR DE-AMERICANISATION PLAN PROVES ILLUSORY

AFTER the August and September onslaughts by our armed forces and people, the US-puppet strategic forces have been faced with this agonizing dilemma: inability to carry the burden of the war which, like a last-minute pit, is swallowing up everyday thousands of American, puppet and satellite lives and increasing difficulties in replenishment.

In the 45-day period, from August 1 to September 15, 1969, our armed forces and people exacted a toll of over 65,000 enemy troops, among them 25,000 GI's and satellite soldiers. In territorial gains, they wiped out or decimated 5 brigades and regiments, 24 battalions and battalions, 129 companies and companies, 129 companies and companies. As a rule, infantry makes up a small portion of the US expeditionary corps, i.e. about 25 per cent of combat forces which represent 60 per cent of all forces. Casualties among them are heavy and most replacements have received no training, hence their poor efficiency. The US command, moreover, is unable to substitute fire power for strike power, hence indifferent combat effectiveness. Mobile troops are scarce because they are bottled up in encampments and encloses while they are forced onto the defensive. Furthermore, American troops must stay in support puppet troops in relief operations, in various encampments

and encloses and therefore are exposed to higher attrition rate with the result that both masters and servants take high casualties. Troop shortage is particularly acute in the puppet army. Casualties and desertions average 40,000 men a month. That is why, the Thieu-Kieu clique are pushing up military draft while resorting to tricky troop transfer, such as turning members of "popular defence" into "civil guards" and transferring the "security forces" and "civil guards" to main force units and the general reserve. Even though, they are still unable to fill the gap because of the ever growing casualty and desertion rate. The combat effectiveness of the puppet army, too, has declined visibly. Recently, they were forced to abandon their vehicles to run for their lives. Meanwhile, the number of enemy aircraft shot down or destroyed in this 45-day period is close to many as in the corresponding period of last year. Casualty flights of 3 or 4 aircraft and swarms of 7 or 8 engines completely put down of action in a single battle have been reported.

Thus all the measures regarded by the Americans as the key, the war is the "accelerated pacification" program which has been regarded by the US and its lackeys as a strategic measure very important in all respects, military, political and economic. And so they have been devoting much effort to it. The hotly contested areas are the fringe of cities, provincial capitals, district centers and communication lines, and especially the Mekong Delta. They have mastered the going to be very surprised UPI on Aug. 10, acknowledging that a number of high-ranking officers from the 1st Air Cavalry Division, did not believe in the administration's policy of Vietnamizing the war by using South Vietnamese troops (i.e. puppet troops) to replace the Americans. The French paper, *Le Figaro*, on Aug. 10, bluntly stated that the policy of South Vietnamese (puppet) troops replacing the US expeditionary troops, namely, the French and Mr. Nixon couldn't it very well.

It is safe to say that even in the future when the puppet army has completed its modernization plan, it will still be unable to replace US troops and stand the powerful onsets of our armed forces and people. In the comparison with its American counterpart, a puppet division at Vinh Binh city (Mekong Delta), or a puppet regiment at Binh Hoa, 4 Regiment 50, who moved down several high-ranking US Saigonese officers

because the latter prevented the puppet troops from mourning for President Ho Chi Minh. Under such circumstances how can the US-puppets solve the problem of troop shortage and improve the fighting capacity of their defeated army and at the same time withstand the repeated onslaughts of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people?

The Americans have no other choice than reliance on tanks, aircraft and artillery in the hope of reducing casualties among their foot soldiers. However, because of the excessively low fighting spirit of both the GI's and Saigonese troops, their motorized force is far from making the most of its strike power. Recently, the Americans have been forced to abandon their vehicles to run for their lives. Meanwhile, the number of enemy aircraft shot down or destroyed in this 45-day period is close to many as in the corresponding period of last year. Casualty flights of 3 or 4 aircraft and swarms of 7 or 8 engines completely put down of action in a single battle have been reported.

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tactical air support, one-sixteenth for helicopters and one-sixth for transport and armoured cars, to say nothing of ammunition, fuel and spare parts which are much smaller and maintenance facilities which are much poorer. Under the successive offensives mounted by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, even though the puppet troops have elected to cling to the US expeditionary forces, they are still unable to hold their ground. Now can they escape their own doom when the GI's have to pack off? Looking back at the course of events from its beginning, we see that formerly, as the puppet troops could not resist our armed forces and people, the Americans had to send troops to fight the war which cost tens of billions of dollars every year. Yet both masters and servants sustained disastrous setbacks. Short of a miracle the Americans will not be able to reinvigorate the puppet army, the point of surrender, carrying out the US scheme to Vietnamize the war.

THIRD MAJOR SETBACK: THE RESULTS OF "ACCELERATED PACIFICATION" MERELY EXIST ON PAPER

COUPLED with the plan for "de-Americanization" of the war is the "accelerated pacification" program which has been regarded by the US and its lackeys as a strategic measure very important in all respects, military, political and economic. And so they have been devoting much effort to it. The hotly contested areas are the fringe of cities, provincial capitals, district centers and communication lines, and especially the Mekong Delta. They have mastered the going to be very surprised UPI on Aug. 10, acknowledging that a number of high-ranking officers from the 1st Air Cavalry Division, did not believe in the administration's policy of Vietnamizing the war by using South Vietnamese troops (i.e. puppet troops) to replace the Americans. The French paper, *Le Figaro*, on Aug. 10, bluntly stated that the policy of South Vietnamese (puppet) troops replacing the US expeditionary troops, namely, the French and Mr. Nixon couldn't it very well.

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(Continued page 7)

New US Frustrations in South Viet Nam...

SUPPORT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S FALL OFFENSIVE

The Viet Nam Committee of Solidarity with the American People held on October 14 in Hanoi a meeting in support of the American people's Autumn campaign for an end to the US war of aggression in Viet Nam. Phan Anh, lawyer, Vice-President of the Committee, delivered a speech in which he recounted the development of the American people's struggle which led to the October 15 campaign, and hailed the participation of US progressive forces in it.

On Oct. 14, a similar rally was called at Hanoi by the Viet Nam Students' Union.

On Oct. 14, Premier Pham Van Dong went to the American people a message welcoming the present outburst of action in the USA (see Page 1).

President Hoang Minh Giann, President of the Viet Nam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, also sent the American people a message wishing their Fall Offensive full success.

AMERICANS IN SAIGON DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE WAR



On October 15, more American demonstrators picketed the US Embassy in Saigon to protest against Nixon's war.

THE movement against Nixon's war has spread to American civil servants and servicemen in South Viet Nam.

Western agencies reported that on Oct. 14, leaflets had appeared in downtown Saigon calling on demonstrators to support the campaign launched the next day all over the United States. According to AP, fifty American public servants picketed the US Embassy in protest against the US war in Viet Nam.

The demonstrators sent to Nixon a letter saying: "At the moment when millions of Americans are expressing today their opposition to the

war in Viet Nam, we want to join our voices to theirs. We are aware of the sufferings of the Vietnamese people. We declare that this war must be ended. We demand immediate withdrawal of all US troops."

They also asked Hunker, Nixon's representative in Saigon, to come and observe with them a minute's silence in memory of the GIs who died uselessly in South Viet Nam. They added that their friends did the same at their working site.

AP reported that many GIs in the American Division stationed in Chu Lai region, southeast of Da Nang, wore black armbands as a sign of

IN THE UNITED STATES: NEW WAVE OF ANTI-VIET NAM WAR PROTEST

THE 1969 autumn sees a vigorous development of the American people's movement against the Nixon administration's continued aggression in South Viet Nam. Waves of popular anger have been sweeping the United States. The righteous voices of the youth, people and all those in the United States who have peace and justice at heart have been raised throughout the country to resolutely defend the honour of the United States and their legitimate interests.

October 15 was a significant landmark. UPI said

"the Viet Nam Moratorium began with demonstrations from coast to coast, abroad and at sea." AP said it was "the biggest protest so far against the Viet Nam war."

Other to condemn Nixon's war policy and demand a prompt withdrawal of US troops.

THE significance and goal of the American Fall Offensive is as clear as daylight. The common desire of the most active fighting forces are: "To end immediately the war of aggression in Viet Nam, totally, immediately and completely. US troops, stop all the bombings, and remove all US bases in South Viet Nam. 'Stop the war in Viet Nam.' And 'Bring all our troops home immediately and in one piece' slogans were prominently featured in all demonstrations. Aware of the relationship between the criminal aggressive war of the Nixon clique in South Viet Nam and the ugly and gloomy situation in the US, the forces taking part in the Fall Offensive have also denounced racial discrimination, inflation, tax increase and high living cost and other social ills.

BIG cities were involved in this widespread campaign: New York, Washington, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Cambridge, Cincinnati, Indiana, Baltimore, etc. Many universities, public services and churches as well as the Congress, military bases, garages, draft centres took part in it. The movement impetuously drew in youth, militiamen, manual and service workers, including prominent figures in the state apparatus: men and women, young and old, white and coloured people formed a solid and broad front. Crossing the border of the US, the campaign spread to France, Italy, Great Britain, Japan, Saigon, as well as US bases at Long Binh, Chu Lai...

VARIEGATED forms of struggle were used. According to AP, meetings and parades took place in streets, public squares, various towns and cities, even town and county assemblies and the White House. Social and political personalities, even high-ranking officials took the floor during these demonstrations. To condemn Nixon's clique, apart from leaflets, slogans and teach-ins, people carried symbolic coffins, wore black armbands, tolled tocsins, planted crosses and flew flags at half-mast. In many churches, clergymen said prayers all day long as a protest against the war. In the general movement, a great many civil servants (300,000 in the Washington federal administration) staged "go slow" under various forms. The popular movement also reached Congressmen in the House of Representatives, despite the obstacles raised by Nixon's men. 20 Congressmen held discussions which were deliberately protracted and speakers succeeded one another.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

(Continued from page 5)

flush us out. They also deploy regional troops stationed at various posts in encroaching attacks while increasing the bombing and shelling to a high degree of intensity, including the use of toxic chemicals and B-52 strategic bombers to carpet-bomb the fields and gardens to force the people out of their native villages into areas temporarily under their control.

In short, the so-called "accelerated pacification" programme of the US puppets is substantially a heap of crimes so heinous that even stones will cry out, a series of "plunder all, destroy all" operations, a campaign of white terror with savage killing, mass arrests and mass detention which play havoc among the families, and drive tens of thousands of people into a miserable life.

The US and its lackeys, however, are beset with unpredictable difficulties. It is the disparity between the aim of their "pacification" work which is supposedly to win the minds and hearts of the people and their brutalities which arouse popular anger to the highest point and trigger the people's grim struggle. US puppet atrocities are no sign of their strength. On the contrary, they further expose their predicament and decline.

Seeing through the enemy decay, people of many localities in South Viet Nam have provided effective support for them to rise up, liquidate counter-revolutionaries and "pacifiers", "civil defenses", teams, break the enemy's grip and seize power in areas still under enemy control. In Mekong Delta provinces, including Ben Tre, My Tho, An Giang, Can Tho, Rach Gia, and My Tho and the central provinces from Quang Tri to Binh Thuan have fought stubbornly, with the coordinated action of the 3 categories of troops and the system tactics. They attack the enemy on raiding operations, besiege enemy posts, carry out agitation work among enemy troops, hit at enemy aircraft, amphibious tanks and hovercraft. As a result, they have foiled many main "pacification" drives launched by the enemy and succeeded in maintaining revolutionary power in the liberated zone and seizing power in enemy-controlled areas such as in Ba Tri, My Cai and Gieng Tron (Ben Tre), Li Chua, Thanh Dien, Tri Tuu and the Vinh Te canal area (An Giang), Long My, Route 20 sector adjacent to Highway No. 19 (Hue) (Hue) (My Tho), the Xa No canal sector (Can Tho), areas in the vicinity of Vinh Long city, etc.

As political agitation is kept up in urban and suburban areas, there has been a slow-down in the enemy's "pacification" and the program has met with a significant setback.

In many places, the people have broken away from "strategic hamlets" and concentration centres and returned to their former villages where they hold on to their fields and gardens to produce. In many localities, the people join the FLN in building fighting villages with the firm determination not to yield an inch; they resolutely resist the enemy and at the same time boost production, contributing manpower and material resources to the anti-US resistance for national salvation.

With the strength of the line of invincible people's war, with a judicious guideline, and with their own efforts, our armed forces and guerrillas are dealing staggering blows at the "pacifiers" right in their key "pacification" areas and making short work of their system of coercion and about to inflict total failure on the US puppet "pacification" programme.

The tide is turning in our favour. Defense Secretary Melvin Laird himself has bitterly admitted that the results of the "accelerated pacification" work merely exist on paper. On Sept. 15, 1969, the *International Herald Tribune* remarked that it took the adversary only one or two overnight attacks to sweep away any progress just achieved in the field of pacification.

Under the impact of their military setbacks, the US politics is in a mess and their economy is plagued with multifold difficulties.

For all US efforts to revive the moribund Saigon regime, the Thieu-Ky puppet administration has more and more revealed its utter rottenness. Compelled to change horses mid-stream, the Americans staged the farce of reshuffling the Saigon Cabinet. However, this move, far from helping improve the situation, made the Thieu-Ky Saigon political stage filthier. Undoubtedly unattractive is a government composed mostly of generals notorious for their bellicosity and corruption, and the "labourite-personalists" who had for some time joined the Diem brothers in "invading the sea into the sea" and perpetrating insupportable crimes against the people, a government toppled by the Thieu-Ky-Khieu triumvirate who rise from the ranks of foreign-paid soldiers, who are deprived of any significant political basis and who owe their survival to the dollars and bayonets of the foreign aggressors.

For all US attempts to prettify them, Thieu, Ky and Khieu themselves are becoming more and more isolated and their political basis is getting shakier and shakier. Subsequently, they are unable to quiet the wrath of our people and the discontent of various political factions and religious communities in areas still under their control.

FOURTH MAJOR SETBACK: MILITARY REVERSES HAVE GIVEN RISE TO A SERIES OF DIFFICULTIES AND SERIOUS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TROUBLES IN SOUTH VIET NAM AND RIGHT IN THE U.S.

In the face of Nixon's perfidy and duplicity during his 8 months in office, and of the fact that he keeps slipping along the track of Johnson's war chariot, and with the burden of the costly war weighing heavily on their shoulders, the American people have been stepping up their campaign for an end to the aggressive war, the recall of US troops, the right of the South Vietnamese people to settle their internal affairs themselves. Their action is gaining in strength and in scope, and is drawing in various strata of the American people, including a number of well-known political figures. Many young Americans who are unyielding, patriotic and anti-Viet Nam for the selfish interests of a number of American gundealers and war maniacs have refused induction, burnt their draft cards or sought asylum abroad.

The US imperialists are finding themselves face to face with a historic truth: if all the war the US has fought, the Viet Nam war is the most strongly criticized and condemned by the world's peoples and opposed by the American people.

This is an eloquent proof of the isolation of US imperialism—the international genuine, showing that no amount of Nixon's viciousness and trickery can preserve the US position and influence now nodding to their fall. The US is at the nadir of its prestige.

This has aggravated the divergences within US ruling circles. Controversy over Nixon's handling of the war is growing hot among the American public and officials. quarters. Nixon is finding himself at the crossroads. Pressure comes on the one hand from the hawkish and on the other from a good many politicians who still have some sense of reality and who want to get the US out of the aggressive war. Therefore, Nixon's quandary continues. Differences also grow between the US and the puppet Thieu-Ky regime. The latter have come to light in connection with US troop pull-out, the turning over of military assets to the Saigon of President Ho Chi Minh's death, the cabinet reshuffle in Saigon, etc.

These antagonisms have been hurting the US and its puppets and will hurt them still further.

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US hope to use the reactionary puppet Thieu-Ky-Khieu administration to impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam is just a pipe-dream. It will vanish under the impact of the increasingly devastating blows of our armed forces and people.

In the economic and financial fields, their difficulties are multiplying. Particularly since the beginning of this year, the economy of the puppet regime has been declining substantially. Its budget deficit is very serious. It runs to more than 50 billion piastres for 1969, and inflation, 42 billion. The cost of living is soaring. The prices of daily necessities have doubled or tripled. Corruption is rampant.

Many Western correspondents have remarked that the Saigon puppet regime is one that makes corruption its way of life and war its living. Some people (implying Thieu, Ky and Huong) can hardly last long.

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members of the puppet army and administration at lower echelons are having a hard time because their scanty salaries cannot keep pace with skyrocketing prices. The struggle for vital interests and democratic rights in the cities and the countryside has greatly embarrassed the puppet administration.

The above setbacks and difficulties have lost driven the US puppets into a blind alley and a general crisis and will certainly lead them to total failure.

With their new military gains and fresh wave of colonial offensives and uprisings during Autumn, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have progressed farther along the road towards total triumph. The US puppets are heading towards ever greater disasters.

Realities on the South Viet Nam battlefields after Autumn 1969, show the US imperialists that they can never secure a position of strength to end the war to their advantage. To seek a position of strength in a losing posture is sheer wishful thinking.

The obstinacy and mad reaction of the US puppets will make the fighting sharper, but this can in no way change the inevitable course of events which boils down to this: the more the enemy ultimately squirms, the heavier his failures will be and his final doom is a foregone conclusion.

The only honourable way to terminate the war in accordance with the American people's desire is for the US to pull out its troops totally and completely without laying down any conditions whatsoever, to cease trying to bolster up the Thieu-Ky clique, and to let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs themselves.

Three categories of troops: regular, regional and guerrilla.

Three-front tactics: military action, political action and agitation work among enemy troops.

Members of the "Labour and Personalism" Party founded by Ngo Dinh Nhu.

US-Puppet Crimes

(Continued from page 8)

sentenced to 15 years imprisonment; Mr. Pham Van Nam, Director of the French-language newspaper *La Viet Nam nouvelle*, to 5 years' imprisonment; Mr. Nguyen Van Editor-in-Chief of the English-language paper *Saigon Daily News* 5 years' imprisonment, etc.

In the first nine months of this year, 10 Saigon papers have been closed down.

In the first five months of 1969, the US—puppets conducted over 2,000 police raids in the vicinity of Saigon. Particularly in the raid on the night of January 20, nearly 10,000 people were searched or arrested.

FOR over 8 months now since he took office, Nixon has piled up bloody crimes against the South Vietnamese people. US behaviour in the South Viet Nam and at the Paris conference have laid bare Nixon's off-repeated fallacious allegations about his "good will for peace", "peace initiative" and "guarantee for the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination."

(Based on documents of the Committee to Denounce US-Puppets' War Crimes in South Viet Nam)

① Saigon Front and Mekong Delta: 2,500 GIs and Puppet Troops Put out of Action; 14 Vessels Sunk or Burnt (Including Two 10,000-Ton Freighters).

② PC of a Battalion of US Infantry Division 4 Hard Hit in Western High Plateaux.

PLAF men continued to hammer at this enemy in the Saigon region and Mekong Delta in the first ten days of October.

On the 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th, regional troops launched four onsets in two sectors in Binh Long province: near Loc Ninh (15km north of Saigon); 40 GIs and 2 US platoons and 4 armoured

Further Southwest, in the Mekong Delta, PLAF men delivered hard blows to the enemy who lost in four provinces alone 950 men from Oct. 2 to 10 (350 in An Giang province on the 5th, 6th and 7th, and 300 in Ben Tre, night of Oct. 5, 150 to a counter raid in Tra Vinh province from Oct. 5 to 10 and 150 in Ca Mau province).

Military Operations

cars destroyed and 2 choppers downed near Hon Quan (6km north of Saigon). In the same areas, the enemy took 30 casualties on Oct. 5, 7 and 8.

In Tay Ninh province, 30 GIs in Khe Don camp (107km northwest of Saigon) were disabled by the PLAF on Oct. 6.

40km southeast of Saigon, a Thai company lost 4 men on Oct. 10, where on Sept. 21 last about fifty of them had been wiped out.

In My Tho province (left bank of the Mekong river), about 30km from Saigon, 700 enemy casualties were reported and 13 military vehicles wrecked in 3 days ending Oct. 5. On the night of Oct. 4 alone, 40 targets were hit and a toll of 350 adverse soldiers was exacted by the PLAF.

Successful attacks were made against enemy navigation and naval forces. On Sept. 25 and 29 and Oct. 2 and 6, in the Nha Be canal, above Saigon, in the Eastern Yam Ca river, northwest of Saigon and Giang Troi river (Ben Tre province) the patriotic forces sank or burnt 15 vessels, killed or wounded 30 GIs and puppet troops; 20 heavy-ton cargo ships were incriminated near Nhat Be.

Besides, on Oct. 4, the CP of a battalion of Brigade 1, US Infantry Division 4, (35km northwest of An Khe, in the Western High Plateaux) was stormed; 75 GI casualties listed and five 105mm cannons and seven mortars destroyed with their emplacement.

US-PUPPET CRIMES

1. FRANTIC TERROR RAIDS, MASS MURDER, AND POPULATION CONCENTRATION FOR "MAXIMUM MILITARY PRESSION"

TENS of thousands of raids have been conducted by US-puppet troops in the last eight months, from Quang Tri to Ca Mau, many of them very big, such as the one by over 8,200 US-puppet and Pak Jung Hi troops in Ba Lang An area in Quang Ngai province in March 1969, or the one by more than ten thousand US and puppet troops in Dau Tieng area, Thu Dau Mot province, from March 17 to 31, or an operation by over 12,000 troops of the US-puppets in many areas in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces in the July-August period.

During the actions in Ba Lang An, for example over 300 inhabitants were killed on the spot, and 1,200 others were later deliberately drowned in the sea, while 11,000 others were taken away to concentration camps. Within a few months, as many as 1,150 civilians were massacred in the Eastern part of Thang Binh district, Quang Nam province, while 300 others were slain in Duy Xuyen, Dai Loc and Que Son districts. The enemy also herded thousands of other peasants from these areas into concentration camps.

During the sweeps on Na Phen, Thuan Hung and Long Phu village (Can Tho) from March to July, the enemy made away with nearly 6,000 people.

2. STEPPED-UP AIR AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS, ESPECIALLY B-52 BOMBINGS

CARPET-bombing by B-52 has been brought to an unprecedented level in

the past eight months. Small but highly populated areas have been subject to such attacks, each receiving as many as 2,000 tons of bombs each time. From April 22 to May 5, B-52s flew about 800 sorties against the Quang Minh Chau area in Tay Ninh province, dumping on it a total of 24,000 tons of bombs. The Western High Plateaux province of Kontum was attacked with more than 10,000 tons of bombs between June 7 and 27. On June 10 alone, Vinh Hoa Hung village of Rach Gia province was pounded with thousands of tons of explosive.

Air and artillery bombardments by the US against the Khe H Ring area in Kontum province on February 23 resulted in over 350 inhabitants killed, and more than 1,000 others wounded. Similar attacks were conducted on the various "strategic hamlets" in Vinh Nam area, An Giang province, on June 18 and 19, destroying 700 houses and killing or wounding large numbers of peasants.

3. INTENSIFIED CHEMICAL WARFARE

OVER 30 provinces across South Viet Nam have been sprayed with toxic chemicals, many of them time and again, like Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Bien Hoa, Quang Gi, Dinh, Long An, My Tho, Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Can Tho, Soc Trang and Ca Mau.

US aircraft on the three days ending March 28 doused with noxious chemicals the Phu Huu, An Khanh, Phu Quoi, Thanh Loi and My Thuan areas in Vinh Long province, over a length of 60 kilometers. In the first half of June, 6 mountain districts of Quang Ngai province were attacked with noxious chemicals. In February alone, over 200 people died in chemical raids in Gia Dinh, Long An, Tay Ninh, Bien Hoa, and My Tho provinces.

In Tay Ninh province, on July 18 and 19, over 30 children were killed by toxic chemicals. In early August, in Phuoc Binh, Phuoc Phu and Phuoc Mang villages in Ninh Thuan province alone, 72 inhabitants died from US poisonous substances.

The US has many times used noxious gas and spread the agent known as CS on the provinces of Quang Nam, Tay Ninh, Ba Kien, and Can Tho and the vicinity of Saigon, killing or seriously affecting still in their raid in Binh Nam village (Quang Nam) US troops pushed to old po-

ple and one pregnant woman into a shelter, then flushed it with toxic gas, killing all of them.

4. ILLEGAL DETENTION

AT present, hundreds of thousands of patriots, peace-lovers and sympathizers of the neutrality of South Viet Nam are in US-puppet jails. These victims are put to the torture at any time without trial, and receive insufficient food rations and drinking water. They are confined in stuffy, narrow cells. The sick are given no medical treatment.

Mr. Ho Ngoc Nhuan, a "deputy" to the Saigon puppet national assembly, after returning from a visit to Paulo Condor said on February 1st, 1969, that the number of prisoners on this offshore island jail had doubled that in Ngo Dinh Diem time. He said there was only one physician to look after every 8,000 inmates. 350 of them, aged about sixty and seriously ill, received no medical attention. Some 200 ten-agers were groundlessly detained there and were as ill-treated as adults...

Of course, the truth was much more appalling.

The savage methods applied in August in the Thu Duc prison against 1,000 women detained there have stirred a strong wave of protest in the world.

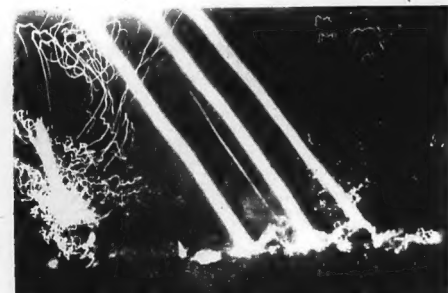
5. REPRESSION AND PERSECUTION OF URBAN PEOPLE

TO intimidate the townsfolk now militating actively for peace, independence, democracy and neutrality, the US and Saigon puppets have taken many ruthless measures against them.

Nguyen Van Thieu has many times in the name of the Saigon puppet administration declared his readiness to crack down on any one who is for neutrality and the establishment of a coalition government and demands the restoration of peace in South Viet Nam.

In Saigon alone, tens of thousands of intellectuals, intellectuals favouring peace and neutrality have been imprisoned and illegally sentenced. Former Member of the Ho Chi Minh, Vice-Director of the Hoi Dao Institute, was

(Continued page 7)



PLAF guns hammer at a U.S. position.